

AGENDA

Committee on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 6, 2024 AT 4:00 PM



Lansing City Hall, City
124 W. Michigan Avenue, Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers
To provide input or ask questions on any item that is listed on the agenda,
members of the public may contact the City Council at city.council@lansingmi.gov or (517) 483-4177 prior to the meeting.
<https://video.ibm.com/channel/gov-tv-city-of-lansing-s-city-tv-station>

Council Member Jackson, Chairperson
Council Member Pehlivanoglu, Vice Chairperson
Council Member Carter, Member

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Minutes**
 - A. November 15, 2023 - PLACE ON FILE
4. **Public Comment on Agenda Items (Up to 3 Minutes)**
5. **Discussion/Action:**
 - B. RESOLUTION - Call for Lasting Cease Fire
6. **Other**
7. **Adjourn**

Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation to fully participate in these meetings should contact the City Council Office at 517-483-4177 (TTY 711) 24 hour notice may be needed for certain accommodations. An attempt will be made to grant all reasonable accommodation requests.



- Minutes
Committee on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
Wednesday, November 15, 2023 @ 3:30 p.m.
City Council Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Garza called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Council Member Garza, Chair
Council Member Spitzley, Vice-Chair
Council Member Brown, Member- absent

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager
Lisa Hagen-Lawrence, OCA
Kim Coleman, HRCS
Ashely Green, Advocacy Group
Teresa , consultant with

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPTIZLEY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

PRESENTATION

Update from Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Board

Ms. Coleman introduced Ms. Green, and at the last reporting they were preparing for facilitating the group.

Council Member Garza asked if the DEI Manager position was filled, and Ms. Coleman stated they did have potential but did have to repost it.

Ms. Green explained their first step was going through what the roles were of the members, then did a team building day and spoke on diversity, equity and inclusion so they was an understanding of what their structure was going to be. They then went through meeting decorum, open meetings, elections of chairperson, secretary, etc. and then went into reviewing the racial equity plan. After that they helped them create sub committees focusing on what that theme is, and they will start working on those themes to address the recommendations that have already been put in place in the plan. They are being asked to meet prior to the monthly board meetings, and will report out for the first time in December. In addition to this training they also worked with them on a communication plan.

DRAFT

Council Member Spitzley asked what the themes were. Ms. Green listed:

- Justice and Safety
- Economic Development- Resources, Sustainability
- Community Sustainability

These were already developed in the plan, but this board is in place to encourage residents have a place.

Council Member Spitzley asked what the connect is with the Board and the buy in from the Administration. Ms. Green they will propose recommendations and then the Administration determines what recommendations they want to act on.

Council Member Garza asked if the meetings are open to the public, and Ms. Green confirmed. He then asked about recommendations, and Ms. Green stated they are part of the plan on the website.

Council Member Spitzley asked where they meet, and Ms. Coleman confirmed it is City Hall and they do follow the open meetings act.

Council Member Garza invited them to a meeting in January after they have held their December meeting.

Ms. Green acknowledged that they are working with the Board on a communications plan so they can communicate and provide information to the residents and administration.

Council Member Spitzley asked if they are working on internal or external, and Ms. Green stated there is an internal Equity Core team. Ms. Coleman stated they hold monthly training with department directors. Ms. Green she works internally and with the Board, and the Board is working externally.

Ms. Coleman invited the council to the future diversity meeting in June, and the MLK event will be back in person in January.

DISCUSSION

RESOLUTION- Reappointment; Raquel Sparkman; 3rd Ward Member; DEI Advisory Board; Term to Expire 6/30/2027

Council Member Garza noted this is a reappointment.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPITZLEY TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO REAPPOINT RAQUEL SPARKMAN TO THE DEI ADVISORY BOARD. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Other

No other topics.

Adjourn

Adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

Submitted, Sherrie Boak

Recording Secretary, Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on

BY THE COMMITTEE ON EQUITY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A CEASEFIRE TO PRESERVE LIFE

WHEREAS, the City of Lansing stands committed to the notion that all human life is precious in all communities and nations of the world regardless of national, ethnic, political, or religious affiliations; and

WHEREAS, the recent and ongoing armed violence has resulted in the tragic loss of life of thousands of Palestinians and Israeli; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lansing recognizes itself as a globally connected community, enriched by a racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse community that continually stands on the side of human rights, peace, and justice and has historically welcomed those fleeing violence and war; and

WHEREAS, Islamophobia, antisemitism, anti-Palestinian and anti-Israeli bigotry have risen considerably across the U.S. and the world, with direct impacts on our culturally diverse community in Lansing; and

WHEREAS, Critical infrastructure throughout Gaza, including mosques, churches, hospitals, ambulances and historical cultural heritage sites were bombed; and

WHEREAS, Gaza has been effectively cut off from basic life necessities and most Palestinians have been displaced, resulting in mass starvation and ongoing crisis; and

WHEREAS, the U.S Government holds great diplomatic power that could save Palestinian and Israeli lives and the City of Lansing urges officials to prioritize the preservation of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Lansing, that the capital city of Lansing, Michigan joins the calls from the growing number of cities across the World, for an immediate and lasting ceasefire in Gaza and Israel, and the safe return of all innocent hostages and detainees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Lansing condemns all forms of discrimination, including Islamophobia, antisemitism, and anti-Palestinian and anti-Israeli bigotry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon passage a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Office of U.S. President, the Office of the U.S. Representatives and Senators.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the City of Lansing expresses its immense sorrow over the loss of innocent lives and the suffering endured by civilians in Gaza, Israel, and the broader region and extends deepest sympathies to Lansing and Michigan residents who have been directly impacted by the ongoing violence in any way, including the loss of loved ones.

Boak, Sherrie

From: Livi Wilde <lewilde21@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 12:17 PM
To: City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ceasefire Resolution

Hello,

My name is Livi Wilde, and I am a Lansing resident living within the 4th Ward 32nd District. As one of your constituents, I would ask you to sponsor and adopt the ceasefire resolution concerning the Palestine-Israel conflict and the genocide of the Palestinian people. There have been far too many lives lost as a result of this conflict and I will be voting accordingly in the future depending on how my elected representatives respond.

Thank you for your time,
Livi Wilde

--

Livi E. Wilde
she/her, they/them
MSU '20 | IDS Healthy & Society
wildel@msu.edu | lewilde21@gmail.com

Boak, Sherrie

From: Mouhamad Katlan <moekatlan23@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 11:21 AM
To: City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Call for a ceasefire

We as the residence of Michigan and citizens of the USA urge our elected members to call for a ceasefire in Palestine. Too many innocent lives being killed. We have to stop this genocide funded by the USA government. History will tell who supported a ceasefire to stop a genocide who didn't

Boak, Sherrie

From: jenniferbriles@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2024 8:12 PM
To: City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Israeli Hostages

Good evening,

If our city council decides to call for a cease fire in Gaza, I am requesting you also call for the release of the 132 Israeli hostages Hamas refuses to return to their families. This includes children.

Sincerely,

Jennifer

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE device

Boak, Sherrie

From: kirabbim@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 1:59 PM
To: City Council; Jackson, Brian; Carter, Tamera; Pehlivanoglu, Trini
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Response to Resolution Calling for a Ceasefire to Preserve Life
Attachments: Response to Resolution Calling for a Ceasefire to Preserve Life - Kaufman.docx

Dear Members of the Committee on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion,

My name is Matthew Kaufman. I am the rabbi of Congregation Kehillat Israel, which is located in the City of Lansing. I am writing to you as a private party. My views are not necessarily those of my congregation.

The Resolution's drafter did well to condemn violence and hatred. I and other religious leaders have shared similar messaging with our faith communities. Although I share the Committee's desire for a swift end to the conflict between Hamas and Israel, I find the resolution problematic because it implicitly holds Israel unilaterally responsible for a cease-fire.

War involves two sides. A cease-fire resolution must name and hold responsible both sides. In failing to name and hold responsible Hamas together with Israel, this resolution does not offer a true path forward to peace.

I fear that this resolution will only serve to polarize the Lansing community.

I urge its rejection.

Respectfully,

Matthew Kaufman

--

Rabbi Matthew Kaufman, Ph.D.
Congregation Kehillat Israel
2014 Forest Road
Lansing, MI 48910
(517) 882-0049

January 23, 2024

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I fear that this resolution will only serve to polarize the Lansing community.

I urge its rejection.

Respectfully,

Rabbi Matthew Kaufman, PhD
Congregation Kehillat Israel
2014 Forest Rd
Lansing MI 48910

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Michigan Social Workers urge you to support a Ceasefire Resolution

From: MI Social Workers 4 Palestine <misocialworkers4palestine@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 3:26:28 PM

To: Jackson, Brian T. <BrianT.Jackson@lansingmi.gov>; Hussain, Adam <Adam.Hussain@lansingmi.gov>; Brown, Jeffrey <Jeffrey.Brown@lansingmi.gov>; Garza, Jeremy <Jeremy.Garza@lansingmi.gov>; Spadafore, Peter <Peter.Spadafore@lansingmi.gov>; Kost, Ryan <Ryan.C.Kost@lansingmi.gov>; Carter, Tamera <Tamera.Carter@lansingmi.gov>; Pehlivanoglu, Trini <Trini.Pehlivanoglu@lansingmi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Michigan Social Workers urge you to support a Ceasefire Resolution

Dear Lansing City Councilmembers,

On behalf of the collective efforts of our group of dedicated social workers, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering commitment to Lansing residents, many of whom are members of our organization.

As social workers and social work students, we are held to the standards of the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics. The Preamble states, "Social workers are sensitive to cultural and ethnic diversity and strive to end discrimination, oppression, poverty, and other forms of social injustice... Social workers also seek to promote the responsiveness of organizations, communities, and other social institutions to individuals' needs and social problems." We believe this calls on us to hold our public institutions, including the NASW itself as well as our government and elected officials accountable to the interests of their constituents, as well humanitarian causes such as the relentless bombing and attacks currently taking place in Gaza.

We recognize the profound impact your decisions have on the well-being of residents, and we commend your careful consideration of the impending ceasefire resolution.

In light of the pressing need for community safety, we earnestly appeal to your sense of duty and compassion to support a ceasefire resolution. Your leadership plays a pivotal role in fostering a secure environment for Lansing residents, aligning with the principles that guide our profession.

A ceasefire resolution will condemn the violence against Palestinians and Jews, both in Palestine and locally. A ceasefire resolution calls for peace and will unite the community. This resolution is not an attempt to resolve the entire war, it creates conditions for people to be alive and people in this community to feel heard and seen in the fact that they are witnessing a genocide of their friends, family members, loved ones, neighbors, and fellow countrypeople.

Additionally, as social workers, we, like you, work hard supporting the local residents and others across Michigan. We see the immense trauma and impact this is having on local Muslim and Arab American communities, especially Palestinian Americans who are grieving the mass killing of their families and friends. Passing the ceasefire resolution will demonstrate your deep commitment to human rights to your constituents and also show Muslim and Arab American community members that their humanity is valued.

Most importantly, Lansing residents overwhelmingly believe in the need for a ceasefire in Gaza. Your passage of this ceasefire resolution will speak strongly and create a sense that elected officials are listening to and accountable to those you serve.

We understand that you may be under pressure from a plethora of different groups and organizations around any

response to the ongoing genocide of Palestinians. Thank you for your dedication to the community, and we trust that your decision will prioritize the safety and well-being of all residents.

Sincerely,
Michigan Social Workers for Palestine

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Tonight's Meeting - Comments for the Committee on Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion

From: Rachel Hatt <rachellynnhatt@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 7:24 AM
To: City Council <City.Council@lansingmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Tonight's Meeting - Comments for the Committee on Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion

Good morning,

I am unable to attend the meeting held tonight by the Lansing City Council Committee on Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion, but I would like to include my words on the topic of a ceasefire resolution. If you could please, get my message below into the right hands of the individuals serving on that committee before tonight's meeting, I would very much appreciate it. Thank you.

Hi, my name is Rachel Hatt. I was born in Lansing, and I have lived in Lansing my entire life. I attended Waverly High School and Michigan State University. The Lansing community has always been very special to me, and I am proud to live and work in this city.

I am writing to voice my support and to join the many others in Lansing that are calling upon the City Council to pass the Community-drafted Ceasefire Resolution. I am encouraging you to sponsor the ceasefire resolution, and to include it on the voting agenda at the next city council meeting.

I could take the time to write out various statistics regarding the conflict – how many people have been killed so far, how many women and children, how many people have been forcibly displaced from their homes, how many buildings, including churches, mosques, hospitals, schools, and important heritage sites and infrastructure has been destroyed, how many people are going without food and drinkable water every day – but these numbers seem not to matter as they continue to increase every day, yet our representatives and government have failed to unify behind the call for a ceasefire. I could further describe to you how this is a humanitarian catastrophe that perhaps this world has never seen in such staggering numbers and in a short amount of time, but I believe we all know what is happening in Palestine. We must decide how we will act in this moment. Will we sit in our apathy and not worry about what's going on “over there” because it “seemingly” doesn't affect us? Or will we acknowledge that we are all living in this world together, and as global citizens we have a duty to stop the suffering?

This has been said by others, but I think it is worth repeating. Our country is created from the foundation of states, and states are created from the building blocks of cities. We have power in our city to pass a resolution that could create a ripple effect. Let us not underestimate the power that our city holds. A passed ceasefire resolution coming from Lansing could assist in further uniting cities across Michigan. Let us stand united in the call for a permanent ceasefire. Let the capitol of Michigan stand on the frontlines calling for a stop to this senseless loss of life. There is nothing radical or extreme in saying that we are not comfortable with this scale of mass death and destruction.

Places in Michigan that have already passed ceasefire resolutions include Ann Arbor, Canton, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Detroit, Hamtramck, Kalamazoo, Washtenaw County, Wayne County, and Ypsilanti. Organizations in Michigan have also called for a ceasefire including ACCESS, Ann Arbor Public Schools, APIA Vote-MI, Detroit Action, ICPJ, Michigan United, NASW-MI, and the Wayne State Executive Board. I commend these places and organizations for recognizing the human suffering that is happening in Palestine.

I urge the City Council to add our city of Lansing to this list.

Thank you to anyone that took the time to read this.

Dutifully,

Rachel Hatt
2042 Ferrol St.
48910

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Response to Resolution Calling for a Ceasefire to Preserve Life

From: Zackary Eskridge <zackeskridge2015@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 11:10 PM

To: City Council <City.Council@lansingmi.gov>; Jackson, Brian <Brian.Jackson@lansingmi.gov>; Carter, Tamera <Tamera.Carter@lansingmi.gov>; Pehlivanoglu, Trini <Trini.Pehlivanoglu@lansingmi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Response to Resolution Calling for a Ceasefire to Preserve Life

To the Members of the Committee on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion:

My name is Zack Eskridge, a resident of Holt, MI, but a taxpayer of the City of Lansing. My wife and I have lived in the community for over 3 years. By passing this resolution, it will worry both my wife and I on why we should stay in a community and have a family in this community. If our local community says they are for diversity, equity, and inclusion, but passes measures that say otherwise. By passing this resolution, it will further divide the community rather than working on local issues that the city needs. We request that the committee vote NO on the "Resolution Calling for a Ceasefire to Preserve Life". Below are the reasons, why we urge you to vote no:

- 1) In this resolution, it says nothing about Hamas (a terrorist organization). Which started the conflict on October 7th.
- 2) The city of Lansing is worried about the growing number of citizens displaced in Gaza. As are many Israeli citizens and Jews around the world, but did the city vote for all the Jews that were displaced in the Mid-East and around the world? Below is the number of Jews in just a few countries that were displaced:
 - a. Alegria from 1948: 140,000 Jewish people to 2017: 50 Jewish people
 - b. Morocco from 1948: 265,000 Jewish people to 2017: 2,000 Jewish people
 - c. Libya from 1948: 38,000 Jewish people to 2019: ZERO Jewish people
 - d. Egypt from 1948: 75,000 Jewish people to 2017: 20 Jewish people
 - e. Tunisia from 1948: 105,000 Jewish people to 2017: 1,700 Jewish people
 - f. Lebanon from 1948: 24,000 Jewish people to 2017: 100 Jewish people
 - g. Syria from 1948: 30,000 Jewish people to 2017: 100 Jewish people
 - h. Iraq from 1948: 100,000 Jewish people to 2016: around 9,800 Jewish people
 - i. Iran from 1948: 150,000 Jewish people to 2022: 9,200 Jewish people

If the city is worried about displacement of people, what is the precedent of voting displacement of Jewish people in the Mid-East and around the world? What about the displacement of the Armenian people? Is a resolution coming out speaking on this issue?

- 3) Israel has offered a ceasefire, but Hamas has rejected the ceasefire today, January 23, 2024.
- 4) In this piece of the committee's ceasefire draft it states this, "WHEREAS, the state of Israel has bombed critical infrastructure throughout Gaza, including mosques and churches, hospitals and ambulances, and historical cultural heritage sites, leaving many people dead and buildings uninhabitable". Why is nothing said about the bombs that are going into Israel from Gaza, and all the people that live in southern Israel that are displaced? Hamas has fired around 20,000 rockets into Southern Israel.
- 5) The number of deaths allegedly reported in Gaza is by the Palestinian Authority, which is Hamas an elected terrorist organization. It took months for the United States to even count the number of people killed in New York during 9/11 the number 2,753 in NY only. Whereas the Palestinian Authority (Hamas) can count 10x the number in less time than the United States could?

As stated earlier, voting on this resolution as a city is not going to change a thing in the Mid-East, it is a foreign policy issue for the United States Congress, the executive branch, and other countries governments to worry about. A city council should worry about local issues in OUR city. We mourn all the lives lost both Israeli and Palestinian. We want peace and to coexist, but this is not an issue for the city and will further divide us. Is this committee going to vote on other ceasefires? Like a ceasefire in Ukraine and ask Russia to stop? Nothing has been done in over a year of war there. What about when China invades Taiwan? What about the conflicts in the Congo, Ethiopia, Sudan, and Libya just to name a few.

PLEASE VOTE NO, as this will further divide the community rather than bring everyone together.

Thank you for your time,

Zack Eskridge
zackeskridge2015@gmail.com
(443) 736-6456

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Input on the Ceasefire Resolution

From: Chelsea Lloyd <clloyd74@ymail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 11:01 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@lansingmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Input on the Ceasefire Resolution

To Reps. Carter, Pehlivanoglu & Jackson,

Good evening,

My name is Chelsea, I am a resident of Lansing in the Eastside neighborhood and hope this email finds you all well and resolute. I'd like to give input onto the agenda item of the Ceasefire Resolution for tomorrow's city council meeting (Jan. 24).

The past 109 days of watching firsthand footage and reading accounts of the besiegement on the citizens of Gaza has been horrifying to bear witness to. Almost, if not more, horrifying is the tremendous silence and lack of action from many legislative representatives & bodies to not call for a permanent ceasefire and a lifting of the siege on the Gaza Strip. This is why I am strongly urging you all to please place your support behind this community-drafted resolution, and help bring it to a vote amongst the council members.

When even the top rung of Israeli government seems to relish in the acts of ethnic cleansing and genocide that they enact not only on those in Gaza, but also to Palestinians in the West Bank, there needs to be a clear and unapologetically call to action for them to stop. Even further, as part of a country who has more than helped supply Israel with the weapons and tactics and funding to harm citizens in Gaza with, there is an immense responsibility we have to push for a permanent ceasefire. With over 25,000 people killed in the past three and a half months & over half the population displaced from their homes, this cannot continue to go on any longer.

Additionally, the mere fact is that even though many citizens do not support the violence in Gaza, funding and allyship is still being funneled into the IOF & IDF, often bypassing the necessary channels of congressional approval and in blatant defiance of the calls of the people. At the very least on the local level, it should be representative for the capital city of the State of Michigan to call for ceasefire, joining in the league of cities like Ann Arbor, Detroit and Hamtramack, and giving voice to the pleas of the people.

In summation, I ask that you support the ceasefire resolution and help bring it to a vote, and to please urge the rest of your colleagues in the council to vote to pass it. The people of Gaza, Palestine cannot continue to suffer under such brutal war crimes while we wait to move to action. Thank you for reading this and I hope that you keep this input in mind going into tomorrow's meeting.

Chelsea L.
Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Ceasefire in Palestine Resolution

From: Nic Gareiss <nic.gareiss@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 8:47 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@lansingmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ceasefire in Palestine Resolution

Dear City Council Members Carter, Pehlivanoglu, and Jackson,

I am writing in advance of tomorrow's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion meeting to urge you to sponsor the community-drafted resolution for a ceasefire in Palestine. This is incredibly important for the Palestinian, Arab American, and Muslim American members of our community, many of whom have family or loved ones in Palestine.

Many other cities (including Atlanta, San Francisco, Detroit, Dearborn, and Dearborn Heights) have adopted resolutions to call for a ceasefire, it feels paramount that we adopt the community-drafted resolution to send a message to both state and federal legislators that we care about protecting the lives of innocent Palestinian people. As one of your constituents, I am imploring you to sponsor the resolution, and to add Lansing's name to the list of cities who stand in solidarity with Palestinian civilians who are under attack.

Thank you for your consideration, and for sponsoring the resolution!

Kind regards,
Nic Gareiss
306 S. Holmes St.
Lansing, MI
48912

--

nic gareiss
he · they
dancer · musician · dance researcher
www.nicgareiss.com
NPR's "[Best Roots Music of 2022](#)" list
Dance Magazine's "[25 to Watch](#)"

"Gareiss' dexterous melding of Irish and Appalachian dance..." - [New York Times](#)

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Ceasefire resolution agenda item

From: Dakota Cranfill <koty.cranfill@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 9:17 AM
To: City Council <City.Council@lansingmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ceasefire resolution agenda item

Good morning,

I'm a resident of Lansing reaching out to, once again, urge city council to support the community drafted ceasefire resolution.

As much as it pains me to say, I will not be able to attend the discussion today at 4:30 due to work restraints.

My address is 804 Fred St, Lansing, MI 48911.

My phone number is 5172138488.

I hope my opinion is marked in the council's decision.

Ceasefire now,
End the occupation,
End the siege,
And Free Palestine,

Dakota Cranfill.

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Input for Agenda Item 5B for the Committee on EDI Meeting 1/24/24

From: Anna Martínez-Hume <annamartinezhume@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 6:58 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@lansingmi.gov>; Pehlivanoglu, Trini <Trini.Pehlivanoglu@lansingmi.gov>; Jackson, Brian T. <BrianT.Jackson@lansingmi.gov>; Carter, Tamera <Tamera.Carter@lansingmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Input for Agenda Item 5B for the Committee on EDI Meeting 1/24/24

Council Members Carter, Pehlivanoglu, and Jackson,

I am encouraged that a ceasefire resolution discussion has made the January 24th agenda of the City Council Committee on Equity, Diversity and inclusion. I would like to share input on this agenda item by expressing my support for this committee to sponsor the community drafted ceasefire resolution that was shared with the Council on January 8th. I was one of the co-authors on that resolution and previously emailed a copy of it to each of you.

Since then, Lansing for Palestine, a local alliance of Lansing residents, human rights advocates, and academics, issued a petition out to the Lansing and Greater Lansing area to gather community support for the City Council to pass the community drafted ceasefire resolution. Residents had the opportunity to read the resolution before signing. You can find the petition on [change.org](https://chnge.org) here: <https://chnge.org/petition/mTzyWLPdF5>

As of today, this petition has received **434** signatures in just over a week, and counting.

When they signed, residents were asked to answer the question, ***"Why should Lansing City Council pass a ceasefire resolution?"***

Here are just some of the statements that your community shared:

- **"The Palestinians in this community** deserve to know they're safe, and this is one step to show Lansing cares."
- "Lansing residents do not support genocide and **we demand that our elected representatives stand up for our interests** and the lives of the Palestine people"
- **"The residents of Lansing have one simple request... Be on the RIGHT side of history.** Being against a genocide should not be a controversial stance. The Lansing City Council is deliberately ignoring what the majority of their constituents want. They do not care about the people. They care about their perceived power."
- "The genocide in Gaza and oppression of Palestinians in the West bank, is **an important issue for Michigan.** Not only is calling for a ceasefire the right thing to do but it will also show our large Arab/Muslim/Palestinian population that we view them as equals and value their contribution to our state. By funding the siege, the US is making us all complicit. **We can fight back against this by standing up where we can. This includes our city councils.**"
- "The immense loss of innocent life in Palestine and Israel, and the profound human rights violations are deeply painful. Our state representatives are not listening to us and I only hope our city council will. **Human rights has always mattered to Lansing and passing a ceasefire resolution will reaffirm this.**"
- "I think it is important for Lansing officials to acknowledge the genocide going on in Palestine and call for a ceasefire. They also need to **listen to the people and make sure our voices are present** not just theirs."
- "I want my tax dollars to invest in my community not fund a genocide"
- "In times like these-- when grave, inhumane, and genocidal injustices are taking place against humanity, it is each and every person's moral duty to speak up and stand against injustice and oppression. ... We do have a role to play in this, and our voices make an impact. **The council must support its city, those they represent, and the right for equality and humanity to prevail. This is the way to do that.**"

- “As a citizen of Michigan I find it appalling that our **capitol city** has not aligned itself with freeing a people who are being slaughtered with our tax dollars. **Step up.**”
- “...Sign a ceasefire today! Be the change we want to see in the world!”
- “Anything we can do, **no matter how small**, to stop genocide is valuable.”

Let the many passionate and concerned voices of your community inform your discussion tomorrow, and move you into action.

With peace and deep encouragement to each of you,

Anna Martinez-Hume (Lansing resident, Ward #2)

--

Anna Martínez-Hume, PhD
 Research Associate
 Center for Healthy Communities
 Michigan Public Health Institute
amartine@mphi.org
 2342 Woodlake Drive
 Okemos, MI 48864
www.mphi.org
MPHI occupies ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Support for Ceasefire Resolution

From: Molly McBride <mollymcbride23@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 11:21 AM
To: City Council <City.Council@lansingmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Ceasefire Resolution

Hello,

My name is Molly, I am a Lansing resident in the 48912 zip code. I'm writing to express emphatic support for the City Council Committee on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion to sponsor a ceasefire resolution.

Palestinians in Gaza and elsewhere in the Occupied Territories are experiencing **genocide** perpetrated by the state of Israel. The Israeli military is targeting hospitals, journalists, densely populated residential areas and more, all of which contradict international Rules of War and fall under the definition of genocide. A devastating, unbelievable amount of Palestinians have already been murdered by Israel, including extremely high rates of children. We cannot stand by and continue to fund this genocide. I strongly encourage the Committee to sponsor the community-drafted ceasefire resolution that will be discussed at today's meeting.

This is an issue I am closely following and will consider how city council members use their power--I hope you use your power to represent the multitude of Lansing residents' voices in fighting against genocide. It is such an important issue that will influence how I vote in future city elections.

Thank you,
Molly McBride
48912

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] CEASEFIRE RESOLUTION 1/24

From: vivian bradfield <vivianbradfield@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 11:49 AM
To: City Council <City.Council@lansingmi.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] CEASEFIRE RESOLUTION 1/24

Good afternoon,

My name is Vivian and I am a constituent of yours. There is a meeting being held tonight to discuss a possible city-level ceasefire resolution.

I am begging you as your constituent and as an active part of this community to PLEASE STAND UP FOR THE MOTHERS, FATHERS, CHILDREN, GRANDPARENTS, JOURNALISTS, DOCTORS, ASPIRING STUDENTS, FUTURE TEACHERS, AND ENTIRE FAMILIES THAT ARE BEING OBLITERATED IN EVERY PASSING SECOND, EVEN AS I TYPE THIS.

Genocide is happening before our eyes, and this is a pivotal moment for humanity. We need to look inward and ask ourselves where we have progressed, if we have at all- whether we are as good as we claim to be, and whether our values match our actions. Without American aid, Israel wouldn't be capable of inflicting the type of mass destruction and death that it has on the human beings of Palestine. The world is full of greed and hate, yet we all owe it to each other as living beings who share this planet to make it as safe and inhabitable as possible, even if that means only being able to influence the people closest to you, in your immediate circle of peers and your community- to be better people for our neighbors, no matter how far away they may be.

Every person reading this, attending the meeting tonight or standing by can help to be a swaying force against evil, in the midst of the disgusting and inhumane events we are watching unfold every single day.

So, I beg you once more, to consider making the noble and HUMAN choice- to stand wholeheartedly for a COMPLETE AND IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE IN GAZA, alongside the protection of civilians and the establishments of safe zones in the Gaza strip- followed by the entry of adequate Humanitarian assistance, as well as access to clean water, electricity, and fuel - all of which is necessary to salvage what is left of Palestine, and can only be considered a baseline of what any human being deserves.

These steps MUST be taken, as quickly and as efficiently as possible, as every minute we spend talking, families grieve even more colossal loss, and we cement ourselves as Americans in history as being on the very wrong, very despicable side of humanity.

PLEASE establish a ceasefire resolution and put Lansing on the human side of history.

Thank you for your time.
Vivian Bradfield

Richmond, Renee

From: Richmond, Renee
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 12:04 PM
To: City Council
Subject: CeaseFire Support

Mick Peti-Baudin
610-585-1614

She just called in and cannot make the EDI meeting today and wanted to let you know her support for the Cease Fire Resolution.

Renee Richmond

City Council Administrative Assistant
124 W. Michigan Ave. | Lansing, MI 48933
O: 517-483-4177 renee.richmond@lansingmi.gov | city.council@lansingmi.gov
www.lansingmi.gov/City_Council | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Resolution For Ceasefire in Palestine

From: Debbie Carlos <debbie.carlos@gmail.com>
Date: Jan 24, 2024 at 12:42 PM -0500
To: city.council@lansingmi.gov
Subject: Resolution For Ceasefire in Palestine

Hello,

My name is Debbie Carlos, resident of the 2nd Ward. I'm unable to attend the DEI board meeting today at 4:30 but would like to convey to you the urgency in which the city of Lansing must call for a ceasefire in Palestine.

The violence the state of Israel has enacted upon tens of thousands of innocent Palestinian civilians both in Gaza and the West Bank is not only absolutely morally abhorrent but also violates international law and has been called a genocide by multiple international organizations as well as nation states. It is the erasure of an entire people from their land and from this earth using bombs, chemical weapons, snipers, intentional starvation, and disease.

We are more than one hundred days into this aggression and there is no end in sight. How can we allow this to continue?

The people of Lansing voted for you. We hope you will show us the leadership we are looking for and approve a call for a ceasefire at today's meeting.

Thank you,
Debbie

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Committee on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion - Support for Resolution

From: Sarah Hopkins <sarahsunshine777@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 1:35 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@lansingmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Committee on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion - Support for Resolution

Hello Committee Members,

Today you are all meeting at 4:30pm to discuss a ceasefire resolution that has been brought to you by community members. Unfortunately I can not attend this meeting to provide comments.

In lieu of attendance, I am emailing you to urge you to *please* sponsor this resolution and bring it to a vote at the next City Council meeting on Monday, February 5th.

This resolution is incredibly important to me and many others in the community. The lack of support that our government & politicians at a federal, state, and local level have given to the people of Palestine on this issue is deeply concerning to me. Thousands of innocent people are being killed and we are standing by as Isreal commits genocide and ethnic cleansing.

I stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people and demand an immediate and permanent ceasefire, and an end to US military funding to Israel. End the violence and occupation of Gaza and let Palestine be free.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email and I hope you will listen to your constituents urging you all to pass this ceasefire resolution.

Sincerely,
Sarah Hopkins

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Sponsor the Ceasefire Resolution

From: A Zama <gradfiles123@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 3:44 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@lansingmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Sponsor the Ceasefire Resolution

Dear Respected Council Members:

My name is Jenna Zama, and I am a student at Michigan State University and city resident. I am reaching out to voice my support for sponsoring the Ceasefire resolution on the agenda in item 5B for tonight's DEI Committee Meeting and for future Lansing City Council Meetings. I join thousands of MSU students in applauding the decision to discuss this resolution and to push it forward to the broader city council's agenda.

Lansing is an exceptionally diverse city which I am honored to work in, and one that boasts a history of hosting and welcoming countless refugees escaping war and persecution. Situated in our state capitol, Lansing City Council has a unique influence on our lawmakers and the country as a whole.

I join the vast majority of Lansing, Michigan, U.S., and global residents in demanding a permanent and sustained ceasefire in Gaza from Israel. Israel being an Apartheid state practicing war crimes that include persecution (Human Rights Watch) and is on trial for genocide in the current moment. As we watch the U.S. facilitate and supply this genocide with the tax dollars of Palestinian-Americans like myself, and our local politicians refuse to use their power to call for the end of the massacre of Palestinians, ceasefire resolutions are a way for localities to take action to shift the political landscape.

Some may argue this is not in Lansing's jurisdiction, but I find this an unbelievable notion that aims to take away from the severity of the situation, and the importance of this call for action. As we face the murder of over 34,000 Palestinian mothers, fathers, newlyweds, grandparents, doctors, teachers, toddlers, and infants (many unborn), all in 109 days, we know from our most innate sense that **this is wrong**. It is only our moral responsibility that each and every person takes a stand and does everything they can at times like this and calls for an end to murder. For the Lansing city council, our task is to show solidarity with the oppressed, and solidarity with our residents' wishes and backgrounds, as many Lansing residents vocalized this perspective and are Arab-American with family in the region, refugees who have faced war crimes and ethnic cleansing themselves, but most importantly, we are human.

Councilmembers, I bare my soul as I write this. I am terrified: for my family, for my friends, and for the future of humanity in Palestine. Just as colonizers did to the indigenous people in the Americas, we are watching the genocide of an indigenous people, culture, and land. Atrocious acts like these have damned humanity for centuries; yet, as we look back in time and claim that we would have stepped

up to put an end to injustice, how can we face ourselves and our city as we stay silent and complicit today?

Do your part as a leader, and stand up for what is right. Please stand with those you represent and with humanity by sponsoring the resolution. Cities like Ann Arbor, Canton, Detroit, Hamtramck, Kalamazoo, Flint, Washtenaw County, Ypsilanti, Dearborn, and Dearborn Heights have all already passed resolutions. Let's add Lansing to that list.

On behalf of humanity, I thank you for taking this action.

Jenna

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Ceasefire Resolution to Preserve Life

From: Elizabeth Boyd <boyd.liz@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 3:53 PM
To: Jackson, Brian T. <BrianT.Jackson@lansingmi.gov>; Trinidad Pehlivanoglu <trinidad.pehli@gmail.com>; Carter, Tamera <Tamera.Carter@lansingmi.gov>
Cc: City Council <City.Council@lansingmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ceasefire Resolution to Preserve Life

Chairperson Jackson and fellow committee members,

It is my understanding the Committee on Equity, Inclusion and Diversion will consider a resolution this afternoon calling for a ceasefire in GAZA.

As a city resident I am asking you to table this matter. Passing such a resolution is beyond the responsibility of the Lansing City Council that plays no role in this matter. If concerned citizens want a ceasefire (and I can appreciate that they might) they should be contacting their respective members of Congress or the Biden Administration. This is a federal matter and not one for the city.

I believe this matter is beyond the scope of what your committee is all about.

Elizabeth D. Boyd
Lansing Resident

Richmond, Renee

From: Richmond, Renee
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 4:12 PM
To: City Council
Subject: CeaseFire Resolution

Isabel Panyard
248-759-7566

Wanted to express her support for the resolution.

Renee Richmond

City Council Administrative Assistant
124 W. Michigan Ave. | Lansing, MI 48933
O: 517-483-4177 renee.richmond@lansingmi.gov | city.council@lansingmi.gov
www.lansingmi.gov/City_Council | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

Richmond, Renee

From: Richmond, Renee
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 4:26 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Ceasefire Resolution

Nina Blum
517-505-6659

Would like to encourage support of the resolution and passage.

Renee Richmond

City Council Administrative Assistant
124 W. Michigan Ave. | Lansing, MI 48933
O: 517-483-4177 renee.richmond@lansingmi.gov | city.council@lansingmi.gov
www.lansingmi.gov/City_Council | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

Mark Mellman
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Archie Gottesman

Anton Gunn

Hon. Alma Hernandez

Edward Kelly

Sam Lauter

Barry Porter

Meghan Stabler

Alisa Swidler*

In Memoriam

Peter Villegas

January 30, 2024

124 W Michigan Ave
Lansing, MI
48933

Dear Council Member,

I'm the Political Director of Democratic Majority for Israel (DMFI), an organization of Democratic Party leaders from across the country, with over 100,000 supporters dedicated to advancing the values of the Democratic Party — important among them our pro-Israel position.

I am writing to you today with concern about the misguided ceasefire resolution currently that may come before the Lansing City Council.

On October 7th Hamas terrorists attacked Israeli communities resulted in 1,200 deaths and included raping, burning, mutilating and executing women and children.

As you are aware, there was a ceasefire on October 7th, which Hamas broke in the single deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust. Right now, more than 100 hostages remain held by Hamas in Gaza, including Americans.

Hamas could surrender, return the hostages, and end this war at any time, but refuses to do so.

This body calling for an immediate ceasefire does not bring us together, rather it tears us apart, driving a wedge into the Democratic Party on the precipice of a presidential election in which the very future of our democracy is at stake. **It is our hope that you will stand up for what is right and decline to bring this resolution before the council, and vote against it if another member brings it before the council.**

We are committed to a permanent peace and a two-state solution, but the council passing a ceasefire resolution does nothing to advance peace between Israelis and Palestinians, nor does it recognize the reality of the situation on the ground.

We support a ceasefire after Hamas has been disarmed and dismantled and after hostages have been released. But a permanent ceasefire now

leaves Hamas in control of Gaza, in control of their weapons and in control of the hostages—which is why the Biden-Harris Administration opposes the idea. Indeed, the U.S. just vetoed a UN resolution calling for such a ceasefire.

Hamas leadership has promised to execute attacks like October 7th over and over again. A permanent ceasefire now gives them the opportunity to keep that promise, attacking again at a time of their choosing.

Again, we would be most grateful for your support of Biden Administration policy and your opposition to resolution calling for a permanent ceasefire now.

Joel Wanger
Political Director
Democratic Majority for Israel

From: annette18w@gmail.com <annette18w@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 11:55 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@lansingmi.gov>
Cc: annette18w@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reject the Gaza Cease-Fire Resolution of 01/24/2024

Reject the Gaza Cease-Fire Resolution of 01/24/2024

What happened to the I in DEI? Where is the truthful Inclusion?

It has been replaced by Exclusion. The Committee has excluded any mention of Hamas, the brutal source of Gaza's terrible situation.

If the Resolution were actually Inclusive about detailing the plight of Gazans, it would be obliged to report the following:

Hamas, the sole occupier and governing body of Gaza since 2007, is designated by the U.S. State Department as a terrorist organization

The **Hamas** Charter rejects Israel's right to exist and rejects peaceful solutions

Hamas has fired upward of 20,000 rockets into Southern Israel and has violated four cease fire agreements after Israel retaliated in self-defense

Hamas received massive international financial and material aid to better the lives of Gazans but instead diverted it to building miles of underground tunnels, stockpiling weapons, and placing rocket launchers in or near hospitals, mosques, schools and homes

Hamas, on October 7th, 2023, unleashed a massacre of approximately 1,200 Israeli civilians celebrating the end of the Festival of Succoth

Hamas' savage brutality in raping, beheading, incinerating families, murdering indiscriminately, including a pregnant woman and her fetus, capturing hostages of all ages, and leveling entire agricultural communities, was described by President Biden as, "Pure, unadulterated evil."

Hamas' stated military goal of eliminating Israel and then mounting a genocidal act of war against it on October 7th, makes Hamas solely responsible for the terrible misery it has brought on Gazans in the wake of Israel's defensive retaliation to eliminate Hamas as an existential threat

The Resolution proposed by Lansing's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee has excluded any mention of Hamas's terrorist agenda. Instead, the Resolution names *Israel*, as if it had woken up on October 7th and invaded Gaza.

This Resolution should be rejected by the Lansing City Council.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this issue.

Annette Weinshank, East Lansing

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Special Session for Palestinian Ceasefire Resolution

From: Nic Gareiss <nic.gareiss@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2024 8:34 PM
To: Carter, Tamera <Tamera.Carter@lansingmi.gov>; Pehlivanoglu, Trini <Trini.Pehlivanoglu@lansingmi.gov>; briantjackson@lansingmi.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Special Session for Palestinian Ceasefire Resolution

Dear Council Members Tamara Carter, Trini Pehlivanoglu, and Brian T. Jackson,

I am a constituent of yours writing to say thank you for your consideration of and revisions to the community-authored ceasefire resolution for Palestine at last week's EDI committee meeting. I understand that if the resolution is discussed at your next meeting Feb. 28 that it won't make it onto the agenda for a City Council meeting until March. I would like to humbly urge you to consider holding a special session to approve the resolution and ensure its place on the agenda for the Feb. 12 City Council meeting. We cannot afford to lose any more time - and any more lives, in Palestine.

This is incredibly important for the Palestinian, Arab American, and Muslim American members of our community, many of whom have family or loved ones in Palestine. A multitude of other cities (including Atlanta, San Francisco, Providence, Ann Arbor, Detroit, Dearborn, and Dearborn Heights) have adopted resolutions to call for a ceasefire, it feels paramount that we adopt the community-drafted resolution to send a message to both state and federal legislators that we care about protecting the lives of innocent Palestinian people. As one of your constituents, I am imploring you to sponsor the resolution, and to add Lansing's name to the list of cities who stand in solidarity with Palestinian civilians who are under attack.

Thank you for your consideration, and for doing all you can to put forward this ceasefire resolution.

Kind regards,
Nicholas Gareiss (he/they)
306 S. Holmes St.
Lansing, MI
48912

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Ceasefire Resolution

From: Purani Raj <puranimuru@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 8:56 PM
To: Pehlivanoglu, Trini <Trini.Pehlivanoglu@lansingmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ceasefire Resolution

Dear EDI Committee Member Pehlivanoglu,

My name is Purani Murukathas and I'm reaching out to call for you to hold a special session to pass the modified ceasefire resolution and place it on the February 12th City Council agenda. Every day, Palestinians are being slaughtered by the genocidal acts of violence being carried out by the Israeli occupation. The US is enabling this genocide through sending weapons and funding to the Israeli occupation while pulling funding from UNRWA, the primary source of humanitarian aid for Palestinians. This support needs to end now. It is imperative that action is taken urgently in order to ensure a stop to the atrocities taking place right now. If the EDI waits until February 28 to pass the bill, thousands more innocent civilians, including men, women, children, and the elderly, will have died from the ongoing genocide. This loss of life is simply unacceptable and something we can't afford. This resolution should be held at high priority right now. Please take immediate action to get the ceasefire resolution passed and on the city council agenda as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
Purani Murukathas

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] ceasefire resolution

From: Shannon S <sszampetti@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 28, 2024 12:41 AM
To: Pehlivanoglu, Trini <Trini.Pehlivanoglu@lansingmi.gov>; Carter, Tamera <Tamera.Carter@lansingmi.gov>; Jackson, Brian T. <BrianT.Jackson@lansingmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ceasefire resolution

Hello,

Please hold a special session to pass the ceasefire resolution and place it on the February 12th council agenda. Do not wait until your regularly scheduled meeting to get this done. Wayne County and Ann Arbor passed ceasefire resolutions weeks ago. Lansing must do this too.

It is very important to send a message to Elissa Slotkin, Gary Peters, and Debbie Stabenow that their constituents do not support the genocide happening now in Gaza! It is also very important to show support to our Palestinian brothers and sisters in the community.

Shannon Smith
1911 N Hayford Ave
Lansing MI 48912

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

To:

Councilmember Brian Jackson,
Councilmember Trini Pehlivangolu, and
Councilmember Tamera Carter

Good morning to all of you.

Thank you for hosting us at the last Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee meeting on Wednesday, January 24, 2024. And thank you Councilmember Brian Jackson for patiently listening to all of our views.

As you may be aware, several cities across Michigan have passed the ceasefire resolution and it is extremely sad to see that Lansing is not among them. Here is list of the cities and counties in Michigan that I am aware of:

Ann Arbor	Flint	Wayne County
Canton	Hamtramck	And even the Ann
Dearborn	Kalamazoo	Arbor School
Dearborn Heights	Ypsilanti	District
Detroit	Washtenaw County	

They join [several other cities across the U.S.](#) including big and notable cities like Atlanta; Seattle; Albany, N.Y.; Akron, Ohio; Providence, R.I., Minneapolis; and Oakland, San Francisco, California, that have passed similar resolutions.

We are determined to keep pressing on our demands for a ceasefire resolution as it is very disheartening to see the enormous number of lives being lost in Gaza. No matter what obstacles we face or failures we are dealt with, and no matter how long it takes, we intend to keep demanding a ceasefire as that is the only humane thing to do at this juncture in the face of crimes against humanity rising to the scale of [plausible genocide as determined by the ICJ on Friday, January 26, 2023](#).

Our local efforts to demand a ceasefire and to stop the U.S. from funding Israel's crimes against humanity in Gaza will increasingly be intensified in the absence of a consideration of local leadership as well as the abject failure of the Biden Administration to heed to the [sentiment of the citizens](#) they are supposed to represent and their [vetoing of the U.N. resolutions](#) that were passed with wide support from most of the countries around the world.

We trust your commitment to the sanctity of life will guide your decision and rise above any coercive influences. If you want a simpler resolution I'd like to refer you to the one the [city of Ann Arbor passed](#). We hope you will not let this resolution wait for another month but find a way to work on a resolution soon, agree upon it and bring it up for discussion in the next City Council meeting on February 12, 2024.

While I do not live in the City of Lansing, as a community organizer, I work closely with several Lansing residents with the goal of uplifting the Greater Lansing communities and the region as a whole. I also serve on City of East Lansing's Human Rights Commission. I do a lot of civic advocacy work and you can check with Mayor Schor on my involvement and work, as well as, City Clerk Chris Swope on my efforts to bring voters to the polls and to register them ahead of the polls.

The other signatory on this letter is Dr. Hisham Qandeel, who is of Palestinian heritage. [Dr. Qandeel](#) is the Medical Director of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Sparrow Hospital and a Clinical Assistant Professor at Michigan State University.

Should you need clarification on our views and have any questions, we are happy to make ourselves available to you over phone, email or in-person.

Thank you,
Sincerely

Thasin Sardar
517.944.5056
thasin@gmail.com

Dr. Hisjam Qandeel
507.319.6671
Dr_HishamQandeel@yahoo.com

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] On the Committee on EDI Ceasefire Resolution Draft

From: Anna Martínez-Hume <annamartinezhume@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 1:28 PM
To: Pehlivanoglu, Trini <Trini.Pehlivanoglu@lansingmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] On the Committee on EDI Ceasefire Resolution Draft

Council Member Pehlivanoglu,

Last week there was no quorum during the Committee on EDI meeting, yet Council Member Jackson still met with residents concerning the Ceasefire Resolution the committee drafted. Jackson was the first council member to engage in a meaningful way with residents on the violence in Palestine and Israel. I think it meant a lot to everyone that the members of this committee have largely been receptive to our community's voices concerning this issue. If you watched the recording of the discussion, I think you'd agree that the conference room that day was a snapshot of the incredible cultural and social diversity of Lansing--including community activists, professionals, multiple religious leaders, students, academics, and peoples of all ages and races/ethnicities--all coming together on this issue. While there was some discussion about the language in the resolution, what was clear was that everyone in that room was still in agreement that Lansing should pass a ceasefire resolution.

I am writing to urge you, and Council members Jackson and Carter, to consider holding a special meeting of the committee to discuss and pass the modified ceasefire resolution and to place it on the agenda for the next City Council meeting on 2/12. Like others, I have no issues with the resolution as modified if it were to pass today. I feel that the community shared sufficient and careful feedback such that any revisions could be made quickly. I can't imagine there is a need to wait further until the end of February to revise and discuss it. I encourage the Committee on EDI to act on this resolution as soon as possible.

The pressure to pass a ceasefire resolution only mounts as humanitarian aid in Gaza is set to expire at the end of February and the death toll surpasses 27,000 people. Moreover, increasingly more Michigan cities are seeing an influx of residents advocating for a ceasefire resolution at the City Council level, and, just yesterday Chicago was one of the largest and most diverse cities in the US to pass one. Here in Lansing, the community petition calling on our City Council to pass a ceasefire resolution has now reached 854 signatures and counting (see the petition here: <https://chng.it/mTzyWLPdF5>). I encourage you to read the comments, and to also reflect deeply on all the emails, calls, and public comments City Council has received over the last several months. This truly matters to this community. Let's move forward.

With peace,
Anna Martínez-Hume
(Lansing resident, Ward 2)

--

Anna Martínez-Hume, PhD
Research Associate

Center for Healthy Communities

Michigan Public Health Institute

amartine@mphi.org

2342 Woodlake Drive

Okemos, MI 48864

www.mphi.org

MPHI occupies ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] URGENT - Ceasefire Resolution; February 12th Council Agenda

From: JSTS <chawncurry@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2024 8:31 PM
To: Carter, Tamera <Tamera.Carter@lansingmi.gov>; Pehlivanoglu, Trini <Trini.Pehlivanoglu@lansingmi.gov>; Jackson, Brian T. <BrianT.Jackson@lansingmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] URGENT - Ceasefire Resolution; February 12th Council Agenda

We can not wait until March 11 to pressure for a ceasefire. Each day we do not act more and more Palestinians have their lives stolen by Israel. The Council Committee on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion MUST hold a special session to pass the ceasefire resolution during the February 12th meeting. Time is precious.

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Ceasefire Resolution

From: Laurence W <williamslj11@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 9:00 AM
To: Pehlivanoglu, Trini <Trini.Pehlivanoglu@lansingmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ceasefire Resolution

Hello!

I urge you to pass the City Council Committee on Equity Diversity and Inclusion Ceasefire Resolution and place it on the February 12th city council agenda. Join other councils, governments, organizations, etc. on the right side of history by doing what is right for humanity and your constituents.

Thank you!

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Immediate Action Needed: Passing of Ceasefire Resolution

From: Chelsea Lloyd <clloyd74@ymail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 3:02 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@lansingmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Immediate Action Needed: Passing of Ceasefire Resolution

I am writing to you as a concerned constituent who lives, works and pays taxes in the city of Lansing. With the recent ruling from the International Court of Justice for actions to be immediately taken to reduce the acts of genocide, the need for an end to our part in funding and backing Israel grows more pressing as Gazan infrastructure continues to crumble and aid is still wrongfully withheld from Palestinians. I urge you all to advocate for & support the modified ceasefire resolution that will be discussed in tomorrow's EDI meeting. The safety and well-being of millions, including children, are at critical risk.

This communication is an urgent call for Lansing to play a proactive and meaningful role in taking the steps to staunch the growing numbers of killed Palestinians. By following the lead of other cities in the state like Detroit, Dearborn & Ypsilanti; we would be setting an incredible show of solidarity with many of our Arab, and specifically Palestinian, citizens who are directly impacted by not only the ongoing genocide, but also the xenophobic & Islamophobic rhetoric that has multiplied in this country as well.

My vote in upcoming elections will depend on your stance and actions on this vital issue. Your support for the ceasefire resolution, and an end to the occupation, is imperative.

Additionally, I urge you to consider the global call for a permanent ceasefire, as evidenced by these open letters signed by individuals and organizations worldwide:

- Plan International Open Letter for a Ceasefire, signed by 500 orgs and representatives from 60 countries%20◆◆<https://plan-international.org/news/2023/10/20/open-call-for-ceasefire-in-gaza/>
- An Open Letter from Congressional Staff%20◆◆[DocumentCloud](#)
- Philanthropy Open Letter for Humanity and Justice%20◆◆[Funders for a Ceasefire Now: Philanthropy Open Letter for Humanity and Justice](#)
- An Open Letter From 750 North American Rabbis and Cantors Responding to the Crisis in Israel and Gaza%20◆◆[An Open Letter From 750 North American Rabbis and Cantors Responding to the Crisis in Israel and Gaza | T'ruah](#)
- Artists 4 Ceasefire:%20◆◆[Artists4Ceasefire](#)

Your actions in tomorrow's meeting are crucial in determining if the people of Palestine will be able to live in a near future where they do not constantly spend ever awaiting an impending bloody death; at this point in this current episode of ethnic cleansing, the Israeli-imposed violence must end, and we cannot continue to be silent in the face of this. I implore you to use your position to advocate for a lasting peace, including a permanent ceasefire and an end to the siege on Gaza.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your response and to witnessing your decisive actions in support of a lasting peace in Gaza.

Chelsea L.

Funders for a Ceasefire Now: Philanthropy Open Letter for Humanity and J...

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Call for Ceasefire Resolution Today

From: Debbie Carlos <debbie.carlos@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 11:24 AM
To: City Council <City.Council@lansingmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Call for Ceasefire Resolution Today

Good morning,

I was glad to hear that an EDI committee meeting was scheduled for today, quicker than we all expected.

I urge the committee to accept the community drafted resolution and call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza today, as a show of solidarity not only to those in Palestine suffering at the hands of Israel, but also in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Dearborn.

As you probably know, the Wall Street Journal published an inflammatory opinion piece calling Dearborn 'America's jihad capital'. Now there is increased law enforcement presence throughout the city due to the rise in violent islamophobic rhetoric online as a direct result of the article. We are both cities with great immigrant populations. What are you saying to our residents by remaining silent? How do they feel safe, heard, seen in a city that seemingly doesn't care. Multiple cities in our state have called for a ceasefire and we want Lansing to join them or are we a backwards city?

To be quite frank, it is bewildering and very upsetting that we have to fight so hard to make our elected officials say that the mass murder, maiming & intentional starvation of innocent civilians with impunity for the past 4 months is wrong. Multiple international organizations and professionals in the field have already said so long ago. The recent ICJ ruling has even determined that it is plausible that Israel is committing genocide of the people of Gaza.

I thank you for holding this meeting today and for reading this message. Call for ceasefire today.

Debbie

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Lansing Ceasefire Resolution

From: Nic Gareiss <nic.gareiss@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 11:58 AM
To: City Council <City.Council@lansingmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Lansing Ceasefire Resolution

Dear Council Members,

I am a constituent of yours writing to say thank you for your consideration of the community-authored Israel-Palestine ceasefire resolution. My sincere gratitude to you all for holding a special session so that the ceasefire resolution may be commented on. My hope is that you will approach tonight's meeting with open ears and decide to place the resolution on the agenda for the Feb. 12 City Council meeting. We cannot afford to lose any more time - and any more lives, in Palestine.

I understand that certain organizations have contacted you to request you prolong adopting a ceasefire resolution, citing the tragic loss of life of 1,200 Israelis killed on October 7th. While I agree that any loss of Jewish life is egregious, in Palestine, over 27,585 people have been killed and 66,978 people wounded since Israel began its brutal campaign. The Israel Defense Force has destroyed hospitals, targeted women, children, and wounded civilians. I urge you to evaluate whose life counts when it comes to showing solidarity and adopting a ceasefire resolution. Please consider the ways that you can help prevent unnecessary violence and devastating loss of life in Palestine by adopting this ceasefire resolution.

This is incredibly important for the Palestinian, Arab American, and Muslim members of our community, many of whom have family or loved ones in the Middle East. The recent press defaming cities in our state has only added to the Islamophobia and anti-Arab vitriol which is already rampant and endangering the lives and dignity of Michiganders. A multitude of other cities (including Atlanta, San Francisco, Providence, Ann Arbor, Detroit, Dearborn, and Dearborn Heights) have adopted resolutions to call for a ceasefire. It feels paramount that we adopt the community-drafted resolution to send a message to both state and federal legislators that we care about protecting the lives of innocent Palestinian people AND about our Arab American, and Muslim members of our community here in the USA.

As one of your constituents, I am imploring you to sponsor the resolution and to add Lansing's name to the list of cities who stand in solidarity with Palestinian civilians who are under attack.

Thank you for your consideration, and for doing all you can to put forward this ceasefire resolution.

Kind regards,
Nicholas Gareiss (he/they)
306 S. Holmes St.
Lansing, MI
48912

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nic gareiss
he · they
dancer · musician · dance researcher
www.nicgareiss.com
NPR's "*Best Roots Music of 2022*" list
Dance Magazine's "*25 to Watch*"

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Ceasefire Resolution

From: Mick Teti-Beaudin <teti.beaudin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 10:47 AM
To: City Council <City.Council@lansingmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ceasefire Resolution

I am writing to urge the DEI committee and council as a whole to pass the community-drafted resolution for a ceasefire in Palestine. This is a chance to be the voice for the community who elected you and stand on the right side of history.

It may not feel like this is a city council issue, but it absolutely is. When the state and federal government continue to ignore the majority of people who want this genocide to end, local government must amplify our calls and advocate for us.

Thank you,

Mick Teti-Beaudin
48915

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: EDI Committee Meeting 2/6

From: Choi, Allie <choiall1@msu.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 12:52 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@lansingmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] EDI Committee Meeting 2/6

To whom it may concern,

I am emailing to urge Council Members Jackson, Pehlivanoglu, and Carter to pass the resolution for lasting ceasefire in Gaza and bring forward this resolution to the city council agenda next week(2/12).

Regards,

Allie Choi

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] PASS resolution for Call to Lasting Ceasefire

From: Dani Dillon <danidillonfilm@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 1:40 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@lansingmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] PASS resolution for Call to Lasting Ceasefire

Hello,

My name is Dani Dillon and I am a Lansing resident. I am reaching out to urge that the Lansing City Council Committee PASS the ceasefire resolution today. It is absolutely imperative that our government - at any and all levels - take a stand against the profound human rights violations that have been unconditionally funded and armed by the United States. A ceasefire is utterly imperative for the survival of any hostages and all civilians on the ground. I have great hope that these fundamental humanitarian values that I have, and share with a great many of my fellow Lansing residents, will be reflected and stood upon by the people who represent us.

Thank you for your time.

Dani Dillon

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Support of Ceasefire Resolution

From: Cassandra Baumann <cbaumann437@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 2:08 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@lansingmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of Ceasefire Resolution

Hello,

I'm a resident of Lansing and I'm writing in support of a ceasefire resolution and any measures that could be taken towards ending the genocide against Palestinians.

Thank you,
Cassandra Baumann
586-563-4830
cbaumann437@gmail.com

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] EDI meeting today: Gaza ceasefire resolution

From: Heather Whitman <hwhitman14@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 2:09 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@lansingmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] EDI meeting today: Gaza ceasefire resolution

Hello to Council Members Jackson, Pehlivanoglu, and Carter,

I am emailing to urge you to pass the ceasefire resolution and place it on the 2-12 City Council agenda.

A permanent ceasefire in Gaza is vital. It is strange to me that anybody truly believes the murder of tens of thousands of boxed-in civilians is a proportional response to the events of October 7. "Self-defense" is a tired justification that makes no sense. The bombing of hospital after hospital, the bombing of schools, the killing of journalists, healthcare workers, Red Crescent members, mothers, children. It's absolutely unhinged, inhumane, disgusting.

The world is in a sorry state if our imagination only allows us to see More and More Killing as a solution to anything.

Lansing should feel compelled to join these Michigan cities and counties in supporting a ceasefire: Ann Arbor, Canton, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Detroit, Hamtramck, Kalamazoo, Washtenaw County, Wayne County, and Ypsilanti.

Why are we so late to be added to the list? As a city populated by individuals of all ethnicities, origins, backgrounds, religions; as Michigan's capital city, we ought to do better for our people.

The bombardment of Gaza has already gone on too long. By adding to the voices calling for a ceasefire, Lansing will be supporting its residents and will help tip the scales towards tangible action by the United States.

Thank you,

Heather Whitman
48912

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Comment on today's meeting

-----Original Message-----

From: Levi LaBruzzy <levilabruzzy@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 12:36 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@lansingmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on today's meeting

Hello,

I cannot attend the meeting today being held by the Lansing City Council Committee of EDI, but I want to reach out and voice my support for the ceasefire resolution being passed. It would be meaningful for this to be added to the 2/12 city council agenda.

Thank you,

Levi LaBruzzy

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Please Pass the Ceasefire Resolution

-----Original Message-----

From: Grace Rau <grau331@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 11:02 AM
To: City Council <City.Council@lansingmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Pass the Ceasefire Resolution

Good morning,

My name is Grace Rau. I am a resident of Lansing, and I am writing to urge members of city council to pass the ceasefire resolution.

For nearly four months, the world has witnessed Israel commit horrendous war crimes and acts of genocide against the people of Palestine. With each passing day, conditions in Palestine grow more dire. In addition to living under constant bombardment and threats of violence, many Palestinians are now homeless, living on the street or in tents, and access to healthcare/medical supplies, food, and clean water is increasingly scarce. More than 25,000 Palestinians have been killed since October 7, 2023, and thousands more are injured and/or missing.

Federal governments and representatives are comfortable remaining complicit in genocide, but we the people are not. A recent poll by Data for Progress reveals that 66% of Americans support a ceasefire. Please help us take action by passing the ceasefire resolution. We must act now, the people of Palestine cannot wait.

Sincerely,
Grace Rau

Richmond, Renee

To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Ceasefire Resolution Agenda Comment

-----Original Message-----

From: faith <faithsaeerah@protonmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 10:19 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@lansingmi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ceasefire Resolution Agenda Comment

To whom it may concern,

My name is Faith and I am a resident of Lansing at 211 Virginia Street. I am unable to attend the special meeting by the committee on EDI tomorrow but would like to urge the committee to PASS the resolution for a ceasefire and to add it to the 2/12 agenda. Please choose to be on the right side of history and say no to complicity in the genocide of the Palestinian people and way of life.

Thank you,
Faith Bradley